U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/806,767
Title: Multi-Source Programming Guide Apparatus and Method
Applicant(s): Nishikawa et al.; Filing Date: March 23, 2004
Document: Response to Final Office Action dated April 6, 2010

Attorney Docket No. 81235 7114

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend Claim 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 18, 19, and 20 as follows, wherein no new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method of selecting content by way of a multi-source interactive programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

5   wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least ~~two elements~~ one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast stopping time, a description of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, information pertaining to the content, an indication of a bearer medium, a sample of the plurality

10   of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, a promotional sample of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, a previously prepared trailer, and a preview of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to at least

15   one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium, a primary transmission service provider, and a data format;

providing at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing an enhanced suggestion engine for making at least one recommendation

20   based on a content nature uniqueness ~~at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer identification, and a keyword~~, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content

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across a plurality of media, thereby providing a coordinated joint display comprising a plurality

25 of integrated results, the plurality of integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing choices being reducible on a basis of filter selection criteria from at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a plurality of different sources and a plurality of different data formats;

providing at least one selection criterion;

30 applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

35 displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

supporting a programming guide navigation;

reviewing and browsing the information regarding the at least one portion of the resultant selection;

40 if selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, providing a selection response; and

if not selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, returning to the supporting step.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

4.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user database, wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information

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from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

5.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern a plurality of preferences of a particular user;

accessing the plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the plurality of preferences of a particular user to the plurality of characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

6.   (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

7.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

8.   (currently amended)   An interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising:

a data processing unit comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a fixed-purpose dedicated platform, a partially-programmable platform, a cable, and a satellite set-top box;

a plurality of characterizing descriptors, each of which individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least ~~two elements~~ one

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<u>element</u> selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an

10   indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast

stopping time, a description of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content,

information pertaining to the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content, an

indication of a bearer medium, a sample of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of</u>

<u>audio/video</u> content, a promotional sample of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of</u>

15   <u>audio/video</u> content, a previously prepared trailer, and a preview of the <u>plurality of discrete</u>

<u>selectable items of audio/video</u> content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from

a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to at least

one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium, a primary

20   transmission service provider, a data format, and at least one selection criterion;

at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the <u>plurality of</u>

discrete selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter comprising an enhanced suggestion

engine for making at least one recommendation based on <u>a content nature uniqueness</u> ~~at least one~~

~~parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer~~

25   ~~identification, and a keyword~~, each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least

one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content across a plurality

of media, whereby a coordinated joint display, comprising a plurality of integrated results, is

provided, the plurality of integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing

choices being reducible on a basis of filter selection criteria from at least one element selected

30   from a group consisting essentially of a plurality of different sources and a plurality of different

data formats; and

a control circuitry adapted to:

apply the at least one selection criterion with respect to the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing

descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the

35   second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant

selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second

plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

display programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a

portion of the resultant selection; and

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40   a support programming guide navigation,

wherein the data processing unit utilizes the plurality of characterizing descriptors, the plurality of cascading filters, the control circuitry, and the support programming guide navigation.

9.   (currently amended) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video
5   content to provide the resultant selection.

10.   (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

11.   (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

12.   (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

13.   (currently amended) A method of providing an interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs,

5   wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least ~~two elements~~ <u>one element</u> selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast stopping time, a description of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content, information pertaining to the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content, an
10   indication of a bearer medium, a sample of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of</u>

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audio/video content, a promotional sample of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content, a previously prepared trailer, and a preview of the <u>plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video</u> content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a

15 second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to <u>at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium,</u> a primary transmission service provider<u>, and a data format</u>;

providing at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing

20 an enhanced suggestion engine for making at least one recommendation based on <u>a content nature uniqueness</u> ~~at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer identification, and a keyword~~, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content across a plurality of

25 media, thereby providing a coordinated joint display comprising a plurality of integrated results, the plurality of integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing choices being reducible on a basis of filter selection criteria from at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a plurality of different sources and a plurality of different <u>data</u> formats;

30 providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the

35 discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection; and

providing a support programming guide navigation.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

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15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

providing a user database, wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided; and

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content,

wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

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accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a

15   plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the <u>plurality of</u> preferences of a particular user to the <u>plurality of</u>

characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content

and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

20   supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the <u>plurality of</u>

characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of

audio/video content, [[and]]

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying

25   programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the

resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items

of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of

audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

<u>and</u>

30   <u>wherein the enhanced suggestion engine providing step comprises providing the</u>

<u>enhanced suggestion for making at least one recommendation based on at least one further</u>

<u>parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a viewer identification and a keyword</u>.

19.   (currently amended) The interactive programming guide of claim 8,

wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one

selection criterion with at least some of the <u>plurality of</u> characterizing descriptors of the first

plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete

5   selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection,

wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a

present viewer of the interactive programming guide,

wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword, [[and]]

wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database<u>, and</u>

10   <u>wherein the at least one recommendation is based on at least one further parameter</u>

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selected from a group consisting essentially of, a viewer identification and a keyword.

20.   (currently amended) The method of claim 13,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual

5   further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion, [[and]]

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items

10   of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs, and

wherein the enhanced suggestion engine providing step comprises providing the enhanced suggestion for making at least one recommendation based on at least one further parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a viewer identification and a keyword.